

SENATE BILL NO. 321—SENATOR MANENDO (BY REQUEST)

MARCH 21, 2011

Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing taxicabs.
(BDR 58-997)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to taxicabs; requiring the Taxicab Authority to establish a system for the use of radio frequency identification or other electronic means in the enforcement of its allocations of taxicabs; providing for the use of an electronic security seal for a taximeter under certain circumstances; requiring the establishment of standards for a daily trip sheet in electronic form; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

1 Under existing law, the Taxicab Authority regulates taxicabs in a county whose
2 population is 400,000 or more (currently Clark County) and in any county that, by
3 ordinance, has placed itself under the jurisdiction of the Taxicab Authority. (NRS
4 706.881) The Taxicab Authority is responsible, among other things, for
5 determining whether conditions in a county require the establishment of a system of
6 allocations of the number of taxicabs allowed to operate in the county. If so, the
7 Taxicab Authority is responsible for allocating the taxicabs among the existing
8 operators of taxicab businesses in the county. The Taxicab Authority also performs
9 allocations if it subsequently determines that circumstances require a permanent
10 increase in the number of taxicabs allocated. (NRS 706.8824) Similarly, the
11 Taxicab Authority determines whether circumstances require a temporary increase
12 in the allocations and, if so, the additional number of taxicabs to be allocated, the
13 limits on their operations and the duration of the temporary increase. (NRS
14 706.88245) **Section 1** of this bill requires the Taxicab Authority to establish by
15 regulation a system for the use of radio frequency identification or other electronic
16 means to verify and confirm compliance with any terms and conditions placed on
17 the allocations of taxicabs made by the Taxicab Authority.

18 Existing law requires an operator of a taxicab business subject to the
19 jurisdiction of the Taxicab Authority to equip each taxicab with a two-way mobile
20 radio and to maintain central facilities for dispatching the taxicabs. The operator



may maintain the facilities individually or in cooperation with other operators, but the facilities must be principally engaged in communication by radio with the taxicabs. (NRS 706.8832) **Section 1.5** of this bill provides a definition of “communication by radio.”

Under existing law, each taxicab must be equipped with a taximeter that clearly displays the fare, the miles traveled and certain other information. After installation, the taximeter is sealed by the Administrator of the Taxicab Authority. (NRS 706.8836) **Section 2** of this bill provides that the Administrator will determine the kind of seal to be used, and also specifies that the seal may include an electronic security seal that is encrypted and protected by a password.

Existing law requires that an operator of a taxicab business subject to the jurisdiction of the Taxicab Authority require its drivers to fill out daily trip sheets that include information such as the time, place of origin and destination of each trip. The operator of the taxicab business is required to maintain the daily trip sheets for at least 3 years and make them available to the Administrator for inspection. (NRS 706.8844) **Section 3** of this bill requires the Administrator to establish requirements for the use of an electronic version of a daily trip sheet. If an operator of a taxicab business requires its drivers to keep the daily trip sheet in electronic form, **section 3** requires the operator to maintain the resulting information in a secure database and provide the Administrator with access to the information in the database.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 706 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to read as follows:

The Taxicab Authority shall establish by regulation a system for the use of radio frequency identification or other electronic means to verify and confirm compliance with any terms and conditions placed on the allocations of taxicabs made by the Taxicab Authority pursuant to NRS 706.8824 and 706.88245.

Sec. 1.5. NRS 706.8832 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.8832 **1.** A certificate holder shall have each taxicab equipped with a two-way mobile radio and shall maintain central facilities for dispatching taxicabs at all times. The facilities:

~~(1)~~ **(a)** May be maintained individually or in cooperation with other certificate holders.

~~(2)~~ **(b)** Must be principally engaged in communication by radio with the taxicabs of the certificate holder or holders.

2. *As used in this section, “communication by radio” means the transmission of writing, signs, signals, pictures, and sounds of all kinds by radio or other wireless methods, including all facilities and services incidental to such transmission, which facilities and services include, without limitation, the receipt, forwarding and delivering of communications.*



Sec. 2. NRS 706.8836 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.8836 1. A certificate holder shall equip each of the certificate holder's taxicabs with a taximeter and shall make provisions when installing the taximeter to allow sealing by the Administrator.

2. The Administrator shall approve the types of taximeters which may be used on a taxicab. All taximeters must conform to a 2-percent plus or minus tolerance on the fare recording, must be equipped with a signal device plainly visible from outside of the taxicab, must be equipped with a device which records fares and is plainly visible to the passenger and must register upon plainly visible counters the following items:

- (a) Total miles;
- (b) Paid miles;
- (c) Number of units;
- (d) Number of trips; and
- (e) Number of extra passengers or extra charges.

3. The Administrator shall inspect each taximeter before its use in a taxicab and shall, if the taximeter conforms to the standards specified in subsection 2, seal the taximeter.

4. *The Administrator shall determine the manner in which to seal a taximeter, which may include, without limitation:*

(a) Affixing a tamper-evident security seal to each access point of the taximeter; or

(b) Using an electronic security seal that is encrypted and protected by a password.

5. The Administrator may reinspect the taximeter at any reasonable time.

Sec. 3. NRS 706.8844 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.8844 1. A certificate holder shall require the certificate holder's drivers to keep a daily trip sheet in a form to be prescribed by the Taxicab Authority **H**, *including, without limitation, in electronic form.*

2. At the beginning of each period of duty the driver shall record on the driver's trip sheet:

- (a) The driver's name and the number of the taxicab;
- (b) The time at which the driver began the period of duty by means of a time clock provided by the certificate holder;
- (c) The meter readings for total miles, paid miles, trips, units, extra passengers and extra charges; and
- (d) The odometer reading of the taxicab.

3. During each period of duty the driver shall record on the driver's trip sheet:

- (a) The time, place of origin and destination of each trip; and
- (b) The number of passengers and amount of fare for each trip.



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4. At the end of each period of duty the driver shall record on the driver's trip sheet:

(a) The time at which the driver ended the period of duty by means of a time clock provided by the certificate holder;

(b) The meter readings for total miles, paid miles, trips, units and extra passengers; and

(c) The odometer reading of the taxicab.

5. A certificate holder shall furnish a trip sheet form for each taxicab operated by a driver during the driver's period of duty and shall require the drivers to return their completed trip sheets at the end of each period of duty.

6. A certificate holder shall retain all trip sheets of all drivers in a safe place for a period of 3 years immediately succeeding December 31 of the year to which they respectively pertain and shall make such manifests available for inspection by the Administrator upon reasonable demand.

7. Any driver who maintains a trip sheet in a form less complete than that required by subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor.

8. The Administrator shall prescribe the requirements for the use of an electronic version of a daily trip sheet. If a certificate holder requires its drivers to keep a daily trip sheet in electronic form, the certificate holder shall maintain the information collected from the daily trip sheet in a secure database and provide the Administrator with access to the information in the database at regular intervals established by the Administrator and upon reasonable demand.

Sec. 4. NRS 706.885 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.885 1. Any person who knowingly makes or causes to be made, either directly or indirectly, a false statement on an application, account or other statement required by the Taxicab Authority or the Administrator or who violates any of the provisions of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, ***and section 1 of this act*** is guilty of a misdemeanor.

2. The Taxicab Authority or Administrator may at any time, for good cause shown and upon at least 5 days' notice to the grantee of any certificate or driver's permit, and after a hearing unless waived by the grantee, penalize the grantee of a certificate to a maximum amount of \$15,000 or penalize the grantee of a driver's permit to a maximum amount of \$500 or suspend or revoke the certificate or driver's permit granted by the Taxicab Authority or Administrator, respectively, for:

(a) Any violation of any provision of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, ***and section 1 of this act*** or any regulation of the Taxicab Authority or Administrator.



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(b) Knowingly permitting or requiring any employee to violate any provision of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, **and section 1 of this act** or any regulation of the Taxicab Authority or Administrator.

➤ If a penalty is imposed on the grantee of a certificate pursuant to this section, the Taxicab Authority or Administrator may require the grantee to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney's fees.

3. When a driver or certificate holder fails to appear at the time and place stated in the notice for the hearing, the Administrator shall enter a finding of default. Upon a finding of default, the Administrator may suspend or revoke the license, permit or certificate of the person who failed to appear and impose the penalties provided in this chapter. For good cause shown, the Administrator may set aside a finding of default and proceed with the hearing.

4. Any person who operates or permits a taxicab to be operated in passenger service without a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to NRS 706.8827, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If a law enforcement officer witnesses a violation of this subsection, the law enforcement officer may cause the vehicle to be towed immediately from the scene.

5. The conviction of a person pursuant to subsection 1 does not bar the Taxicab Authority or Administrator from suspending or revoking any certificate, permit or license of the person convicted. The imposition of a fine or suspension or revocation of any certificate, permit or license by the Taxicab Authority or Administrator does not operate as a defense in any proceeding brought under subsection 1.

Sec. 5. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval for the purposes of adopting regulations and performing any other preparatory administrative tasks that are necessary to carry out the provisions of this act and on July 1, 2011, for all other purposes.

